

Message Text

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50

ACTION EA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-03 H-01 INR-07 L-02

NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 RSC-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15

USIA-06 EB-07 OMB-01 AID-05 /068 W

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R 090748Z JAN 75

FM AMEMBASSY KUALA LUMPUR

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8749

INFM AMEMBASSY BANGKOK

AMEMBASSY CANBERRA

AMEMBASSY JAKARTA

AMEMBASSY MANILA

AMEMBASSY SINGAPORE

AMEMBASSY WELLINGTON

CINCPAC

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE KUALA LUMPUR 0150

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR MY ASEAN

SUBJ: EDITORIAL ON "NEUTRALIZATION PLUS"

REF: A. KL 0035

B. KL 6165

1. FOLLOWING IS FULL TEXT OF "NEW STRAITS TIMES" EDITORIAL
JAN 9 ENTITLED "NEUTRALIZATION PLUS":

BEGIN TEXT: TO MOVES SUCH AS ASEAN'S FOR A TREATY OF AMITY AND
CO-OPERATION SETTING OUT THE PROVISIONS FOR THE PEACEFUL SETTLE-
MENT OF DISPUTES, THE CYNICS COULD SAY THAT BETWEEN FRIENDS
TREATIES ARE UNNECESSARY AND BETWEEN ENEMIES THEY ARE FUTILE,
A PRETTY BUT ERRONEOUS OVERSIMPLIFICATION. THE FACT THAT THE
NUMBER OF WRITTEN AGREEMENTS BETWEEN FRIENDLY COUNTRIES
ABOUNDS AND TREATIES BETWEEN ADVERSARIES ARE BY NO MEANS RARE
GIVE THE LIE TO IT.

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TREATIES HAVE NEVER BEEN MORE POPULAR OR FOR THE MOST PART MORE FAITHFULLY ADHERED TO. THEY SET OUT UNDERTAKINGS, CONDITIONS, PROCEDURES, OBLIGATIONS AND RIGHTS IN TERMS CLEAR TO ALL PARTIES. THE DANGER LIES IN EXPECTING FORMAL AGREEMENTS TO PERFORM MIRACLES. THE STATES OF ASEAN ARE NOT BE SO FOOLISH AS TO HAVE SUCH EXPECTATIONS.

WE SEEK NEUTRALIZATION PLUS IN SOUTHEAST ASIA, A NEUTRAL ZONE BEING ONLY THE BASIC FRAMEWORK (SETTING OUT THE RELATIONS BETWEEN THE NEUTRAL STATE AND OUTSIDE POWERS) WITHIN WHICH A NEW WEB OF AMICABLE AND CO-OPERATIVE RELATIONS CAN MORE EASILY AND BENEFICIALLY BE WOVEN. THE IMPATIENT WILL BE DISAPPOINTED WITH ASEAN'S PACE TOWARDS THIS IDEAL. THERE IS MUCH TO BE DISAPPOINTED ABOUT. BUT PROGRESS IS BEING MADE. AND THERE IS LITTLE DOUBT THAT IN MOVING TOWARDS A TREATY OF AMITY AND CO-OPERATION, THE ASSOCIATION IS IN FAVOR. END TEXT.

2. COMMENT: COMING FROM GOM-OWNED "NEW STRAITS TIMES", FOREGOING EDITORIAL IS SIGNIFICANT EXPRESSION OF CURRENT GOVT VIEWS ON NEUTRALIZATION AND TENDS TO CONFIRM "GO-SLOW" APPROACH NOTED REFTELS.
UNDERHILL

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